UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2000

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J.W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Dean M. Anvari; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. W. Byers; Mr. M. Coker; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. W. Curran; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. C. Giguère; Prof. M. Gourlay; Ms. S. Grewal; Dean C. Jackson; Ms. J. Laberge; Ms. J. Landry; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Ms. L. Prendergast; Prof. L. Roberge; Mr. R. Sebaaly; Dr. W. Sellers; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Mr. C. Adam; Prof. A. Ahmad; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Prof. O. Badawi; Prof. C. Bayne; Dr. D. Boisvert; Ms. S. Friesinger; Prof. E. Jacobs; Prof. P. Rist; Ms. N. Sajnani; Mr. C. Schulz; Mr. J. Woodrow

GUESTS: Prof. D. Bernans; Me B. Freedman

Documents associated with the minutes

US-2000-7-D1	Fall 2000 Graduation List
US-2000-7-D2	Appointments
US-2000-7-D3	Answer to Minister of Education on funding policy
US-2000-7-D3.1	Background report on students concerns with respect to Concordia's performance contract with the MEQ
US-2000-7-D4	Recommendations of the Task Force to review the 1994 rules and procedures for Advisory Search Committees (to which documents US-2000-5-D4.2 and US-2000-5-D4.3 are attached)
US-2000-6-D7.1	Contrat de performance entre l'Université Concordia et le Ministère de L'Education
US-2000-6-D7.2	English-language executive summary of the contrat de performance
US-2000-6-D8	Canada Research Chairs
US-2000-6-D9	Policy on gender-neutral degree nomenclature
US-2000-6-D10	Fast-Track provisional approval process for short graduate programs

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. O'Brien suggested that the matter under item 7 be moved up on the agenda since a representative from Centraide was attending the meeting to present the Centraide Campaign.

R-2000-7-1 *Subject to the above change, upon motion duly moved by Prof. Vallejo and seconded by Prof. Stathopoulos, it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

Following a question by Dean Anvari, it was confirmed that the next Senate meeting was November 10 and not December 1 as written on the agenda.

Dr. O'Brien asked non-Senators to leave the Chamber for the duration of the Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

3.

OPEN SESSION

4. Approval of Senate minutes (September 15, 2000)

Undergraduate student Patrice Blais asked that student speakers be identified by name in the minutes. Dr. O'Brien replied that the Secretary of Senate would try to do so.
Dr. Lowy said that the last line of the second paragraph of the *Remarks from the Rector* on page 3 of the minutes should be amended to read that he is pleased with the increase in the graduation rate of full-time students rather than in the graduation rate as such.

R-2000-7-3 *Upon motion made duly moved by Mr. Blais and seconded by Dr. Lowy, it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2000 be approved, subject to the above-noted correction.*

5. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Concordia Centraide Campaign

Dr. O'Brien invited Mr. Curran, Director of Libraries and Co-Chair of Concordia's 2000 Centraide Campaign, to speak. Mr. Curran gave an overview of the objectives of this year's campaign and then introduced Mr. Yvon Bellefeuille, a Centraide Loaned Representative.

Mr. Bellefeuille explained that he is not a Centraide employee but that he is "loaned" by his employer to Centraide for a certain period, during which time he meets with other employee campaign directors of various organizations to coordinate a successful campaign. Out of every dollar donated, 87 cents are distributed to 250 agencies whereas 13 cents are kept to cover administrative costs.

Dr. Lowy recognized that while many demands are put on one's time and pocketbook, we are all members of a larger community. He urged Senators who are planning to make a donation to consider making it through Concordia so that their contribution will help to raise the University's profile back to the donation level of past years.
Dr. O'Brien thanked Messrs. Bellefeuille and Curran for their presentation.

7. Remarks from the Rector

The Rector told Senate that since his remarks dealt with the performance contract, he would convey them under item 12 of the agenda.

8. Items for Information

Provost and Vice-Rector, Research Dr. Jack Lightstone, had three matters to bring to Senate's attention, the first one being the creation of econcordia.com. This will be an arm's length, federally-incorporated entity used solely as a vehicle to offer courses via Internet to students outside the province of Quebec.

Secondly, Dr. Lightstone recalled that last year Senate had approved that the Academic Programs Committee and the Graduate Curriculum Committee review curriculum proposals before their review by Faculty Councils and reported that this new way of functioning was working well.

Lastly, the Provost reminded Senators that the general education graduation requirement will be applied to all students newly accepted into programs for Fall 2001 semester. The Faculty of Arts and Science is in the process of putting forward proposals including the development of new courses. Should this material not be ready in time to be included in the calendar copy, as long as Senate approves the proposals, a letter can be sent to the new students advising them of the requirement and their options.

Dean Martin Singer informed Senate that the Arts and Science Faculty Council had approved a document on the Canada Research Chairs. He also welcomed back Prof. Harvey Shulman who had been appointed to Senate for a three-year term.

Student Patrice Blais announced that the accreditation drive was going smoothly and that about 10,000 undergraduates had voted as of today.

9. Question period

In response to a question by Prof. Giguère about the budgetary process envisaged in light of the new funding formula, Chief Financial Officer Larry English explained that since more information is available with respect to funding over the next three years, it is now possible to achieve long-term planning. Dr. Lightstone added that this also allows the building of an internal budget model which was not possible to do previously. Considering the fact that econcordia.com will be at arm's length, Student Mistie Mullarkey wondered if information or documents would be accessible. This will be decided by the Board of Directors of econcordia.com, answered Prof. Danis, but he expected that the Board would be open to such an idea. In response to Registrar Prendergast's enquiry, Dr. Lightstone responded that the implementation date of econcordia.com was not known at this time.

Referring to an article published in the October 3 edition of *The Link*, Prof. Shulman expressed concern about Tom Keefer's statement regarding the possibility of organizing an occupation to pressure the University into naming something after the late Rosie Douglas and enquired about the University's position on the foregoing. Dr. Lowy pointed out that, at the request of the CSU, he had met with Mr. Douglas' during his recent visit. They had a very interesting and cordial private meeting during which Mr. Douglas addressed mainly the situation of Dominica and its need for assistance in education and, in particular, its need for computers.

With regards to the granting of an honourary doctorate, Dr. Lowy stressed that serious proposals are always considered, that everyone at the University has the right to nominate someone but that no proposal concerning Mr. Douglas had ever been received by the Graduation Ceremonies Committee. Furthermore, such degrees are never awarded posthumously, Mr. Douglas having recently passed away. Dr. Lowy mentioned that Mr. Keefer had misquoted him with regards to the naming opportunities and added

that it is unfortunate that people feel pressure tactics are the only way to get their point across. Ms. Mullarkey indicated that no motion regarding this subject had been discussed at CSU executive council, on which she sits.

10. Appointments

10.1 Senate Standing Committees
10.2 Concordia Council on Student Life
10.3 Academic Hearing Board
10.4 Ad Hoc Finance Committee
10.5 Code of Ethics Hearing Pool

10.6 Graduation Ceremonies Committee of the Board of Governors

R-2000-7-3 *Upon motion made duly moved by Dr. Lowy and seconded by Mr. Blais, it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to Senate Standing Committees, Concordia Council on Student Life, Academic Hearing Board, Ad Hoc Finance Committee, Code of Ethics Hearing Pool and Graduation Ceremonies Committee of the Board of Governors, set out in Senate Document US-2000-7-D2 as revised, be approved.*

11. Fast-Track provisional approval process for short graduate certificates

Dr. Lightstone recalled that last year a proposal was passed by Senate to fast track the approval of certain short programs. The criteria for such fast tracking has been drafted but must first be approved by Faculty Councils and the School of Graduate Studies prior to its approval by Senate. Dean Bédard supported this approach.

12. Contrat de performance entre l'Université Concordia et le Ministère de L'Education

Dr. Lowy notified Senators that events had outpaced the schedule of Senate meetings. The Ministry required that the performance contract be sent in by August 30 at the latest. This deadline was met; however, it was clearly stated to the Minister that neither the Senate nor the Board of Governors had examined the document and that same was subject to their review.

Following the Ministry's review, it had a series of questions and asked that the University provide more specific targets. Dr. Lowy then went on to convey the Ministry's positive comments, namely concerning the budget and the explanation pertaining to administrative costs, the steps taken to integrate part-time and mature students and the rationalization of programs. Following this exercise, the MEQ was prepared to provide the University $5 million more than originally planned over the next three years, of which $3.5 million would be paid the first year. Dr. Lightstone specified that most of the money was being received up-front in recognition of Concordia's academic planning process, which had been done even before the Ministry had required it.

Dr. Lightstone then referred to the alternative proposals distributed at the meeting concerning how the performance contract may be dealt with by Senate and indicated the advantages or disadvantages of each proposal. Dr. O'Brien suggested that Senate should decide whether it wished to discuss the content of the contract first or whether or not it wished to adopt a resolution, and the content of such resolution. Following many interventions, a vote was taken and a clear majority voted for a discussion on the content of the contract per se.

Student Patrice Blais asked that speaking privileges be granted to Mr. David Bernans, who prepared a document on behalf of the CSU entitled "Background report on students

concerns with respect to Concordia's performance contract with the MEQ", document US 2000-7-D3.1 handed out at the meeting. Mr. Bernans began by stating his displeasure with Senate Steering Committee's handling of the aforementioned document and the CSU resolutions. He then recounted that at the May Senate meeting, the Provost had been advised to keep all Senators informed about developments in the performance contract via electronic means. He pointed out that the CSU had made recommendations, none of which were included in the contract, a notable omission being the University's mission statement regarding critical thinking. He appealed to all Senators to take a critical look at the contract with a view to better it and repeated that the contract in its current form was unacceptable.

A very lengthy discussion ensued on the content of the performance contract and the status that should be given to this document. At one point, amendments to the Provost's alternative resolutions were suggested. Pursuant to further discussion, there was a general consensus among Senators that none of the proposed resolutions should be adopted. Afterwards, the CSU resolution was read by Dr. O'Brien. However, since no one moved that resolution, Dr. O'Brien declared that the discussion should be adjourned since it had been ongoing for over one hour.

13. Canada Research Chairs

In connection with the Canada Research Chairs, Dr. Lightstone apprised Senate that the University had been faced with a September 1 deadline in order for it to be able to submit any applications or nominations in the first half year of the 2000-2001 academic year. However, he reminded the assembly that the plan can be resubmitted annually and encouraged each Faculty to review their portion of the planning process.

Dean Singer mentioned that the document presented at this meeting did not appear to be the same document that had been examined at his Faculty Council. Moreover, he felt that the process had been done hastily, without allowing the document to go through the appropriate academic levels. Dr. Lightstone restated his intention to keep Senate informed and reiterated that the plan can be amended once a year. Consequently, he will amass all modifications proposed by Faculties and resubmit the plan in due course.

14. Policy on gender-neutral degree nomenclature

R-2000-7-4 *Upon motion made duly moved by Dr. Lightstone and seconded by Prof. Tremblay, it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas on 7 February 1992 Senate approved the adoption of the nomenclature for degrees set out in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Degree Nomenclature in addition to and as an option to the existing degree nomenclature;

Whereas upon completion of their degree requirements, all students are entitled to receive their degrees in either the existing or the new degree nomenclature;

Whereas all graduates who previously have been awarded a Concordia degree are entitled to request that their degrees be re-issued in the new degree terminology; and

Whereas this policy has been in effect for a five-year period and is subject to review and re approval in the final year of that period;

Be it resolved that Senate approve the adoption of the policy as set out in Senate Document US-2000-6-D9.

15. Recommendations of the Task force to review the 1994 rules and procedures for Advisory Search Committees

Me Freedman advised that in June 1999 the Board of Governors had set up a task force to review the 1994 rules and procedures for Advisory Search Committees. A report was tabled and sent out for consultation with a September 22, 2000 deadline for responses. Me Freedman drafted a summary of the comments received. Dean Singer indicated that he was unwilling to discuss this subject because the comments of his Faculty had not been included in said summary.

It was agreed to defer this item to the November meeting.

16. Other business

There was no other business to discuss.

17. Next meeting

Dr. O'Brien announced that the next meeting of Senate would be held on Friday, November 10, 2000 at 2 p.m.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m., on a motion by Dean Singer, seconded by Mr. Blais.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate